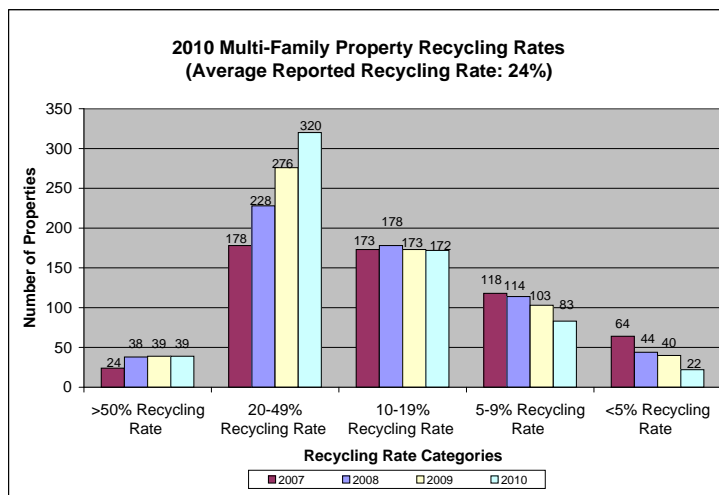




RECYCLING UP AT MULTI-FAMILY PROPERTIES!

Property managers and residents regularly ask the Division of Solid Waste Services (DSWS) if their property has a good recycling rate, and how their property stacks up against other similar properties. An EPA study in 1999 established 20 percent as a good multi-family recycling rate, and consistent with Montgomery County's goal, properties excel when they have recycling rates over 50 percent. Every year, DSWS staff field verify the data included on the Annual Multi-Family Recycling and Waste Reduction Reports, and then we analyze it.



What the data tells us, as confirmed by what we hear from residents and see while visiting properties, is that multi-family properties continue to improve their recycling and waste reduction programs and divert more materials from disposal as refuse. For the first time, more than half of the multi-family properties in Montgomery County have recycling rates of 20 percent or greater! And, the number of properties with lower recycling rates continues to drop. These great improvements contribute to the County's overall recycling achievement, which increased to 54.4 percent in Fiscal Year 2011.

Thank you for your continued efforts to provide your residents with strong recycling and waste reduction programs. Your residents VALUE these programs and appreciate the opportunity to reduce, reuse, and recycle as much as possible from the convenience of their home. As always, let us know how the TRRAC team can help. We can't wait to see what the 2011 data holds!

RESIDENT CORNER

What's the buzz?! Spread the word!



NEED RECYCLING INSPIRATION?



Take a break and check out the short creative "Recycling is no Joke" videos at www.youtube.com/americarecyclesday. Keep America Beautiful conducted an America Recycles Day video contest, and the top 10 videos were chosen out of 80 submissions. America Recycles Day, officially recognized each November 15, celebrates the success and potential of recycling in the United States. You too can put your creativity to use on unique recycling messages for your property. Let us know what you come up with, and we will feature it in our newsletter.

RECYCLE HOLIDAY LIGHTS!



As you and your residents decorate for the holidays, you may find holiday lights that no longer work. These light strands can be recycled at some businesses in the county! Those businesses send the light strands to a recycling facility where the strands are shredded, and individual components (including plastics, pvc, glass and copper) are separated to be recycled into new products.

Visit montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling and click on "holiday light string recycling" to find out where to recycle old, unwanted holiday lights.

PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING -- MORE THAN YOUR GROCERY BAG

The best way to recycle plastic grocery bags is to take them back to a grocery store plastic bag recycling container. The primary demand for these bags comes from companies that mix the bags with waste wood fiber to make strong durable composite building materials. These companies pay the grocery stores for the bags.

But, **you can recycle more than just your grocery bags!** Plastic bag recycling programs want many types of clean, dry plastic bags and film. General guidelines are below, but it is always a good idea to confirm they apply at your drop-off location.

RECYCLE clean, dry plastic bags and film:

- ◆ newspaper, dry cleaning and grocery bags
- ◆ plastic retail bags (hard plastic and string handles removed)
- ◆ plastic food storage bags (e.g. Ziploc® bags)
- ◆ bread and produce bags
- ◆ toilet paper, napkin, and paper towel wraps
- ◆ case wrap (e.g., snacks, water bottles)
- ◆ furniture and electronics wrap
- ◆ diaper wrap (packaging)
- ◆ plastic cereal box liners
- ◆ Tyvek (no glue, labels, other material)
- ◆ plastic shipping envelopes (remove labels)
- ◆ All clean, dry bags labeled #2 or #4.

Do NOT include the following:

- ◆ NO food or cling wrap
- ◆ NO prepackaged food bags, including frozen food bags (e.g., prewashed salad or frozen pea bags)
- ◆ NO film that has been painted or has excessive glue
- ◆ NO bio-based or compostable plastic bags





Highland House West donated 14 bicycles in November 2011.



A recipient of a Bikes for the World bicycle in Nyariga, Ghana. Courtesy of the Shape Lives Foundation.

ABANDONED TREASURE: KEEP THOSE WHEELS ROLLING!

Highland House West Shares a Bicycle Reuse Tip

Meghan Dooley, Property Manager at Highland House West in Chevy Chase, emailed the TRRAC team in November to let us know that a local non-profit organization, Bikes for the World (BfW), collected 14 abandoned bicycles from her property. BfW collects unwanted bicycles and delivers them at low cost to community development programs assisting the poor in developing countries or in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. BfW has collected and shipped more than 59,000 bikes since its founding in 2005, including 8,500 thus far in 2011.

Instead of taking up space on your bicycle racks, abandoned bikes at your property could be providing affordable personal transportation to those in need. BfW will pick up 10 or more bikes at no cost (a smaller number of bikes can be collected for a fee). To schedule a pick up, contact Nick Columbo at 301-461-5349. Keith Oberg, Director, Bikes for the World, recommends that properties post notices over a lengthy period of time before scheduling a collection, to ensure you do not inadvertently remove the bicycle of an active owner. Highland House West posted notices near the bike racks, in the elevators, and in other prominent areas of the property for 45 days in advance of their bicycle collection.

Residents can also donate their bicycles, with a suggested \$10 donation, directly to BfW. Visit www.bikesfortheworld.org for a list of drop-off opportunities and to learn more about this organization.

Otherwise, bicycles can be recycled as scrap metal. Contact your scrap metal recycling collector for more details.



WHAT TO DO WITH CHRISTMAS TREES?

If your residents are permitted to have live Christmas trees in their units, make arrangements now for special collections. Christmas trees must be recycled per Montgomery County Executive Regulation 15-04AM, so don't let them end up in the trash!

- ☼ Contact your solid waste/recycling collector or landscaping contractor to schedule special pick-ups in December and January; confirm with the collector that the trees will be mulched. Or, self-haul the trees to the Montgomery County Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station in Derwood.
- ☼ Notify your residents of the special collection schedule so they know when and where to bring their trees, wreaths, and roping. **Trees must not be placed in roll-off containers with bulk trash and other debris.**
- ☼ Keep records, including the number of collections, pounds of material collected (or number of trees collected), and to where the material was taken so you can complete your Annual Recycling and Waste Reduction Report. Your contractor should be able to provide you with this information.



Questions? Call the TRRAC program at 240-777-6446. Happy holidays!



December 2011

RECYCLE MORE NOW!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES

Multi-Family Recycling Program
Contact: Lauren Kuhn
101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Office: 240-777-6446
TTY: Maryland Relay 7-1-1
Fax: 240-777-6465
Website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling
E-mail: lauren.kuhn@montgomerycountymd.gov

County Recycling Center Tours: 301-417-1433



To receive this newsletter electronically, simply subscribe at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.
This information is available in an alternative format by calling Lauren Kuhn at 240-777-6446.

 Printed on recycled and recyclable paper

UPDATE US ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS!

Annual Recycling Reports due February 1

Annual Multi-Family Recycling and Waste Reduction Reports are a great way to track recycling achievements and learn about the best waste reduction and recycling activities going on at properties in the county.

Your primary waste and recycling collection company can help you with the basics, but you'll need information from a variety of sources. As you prepare to file your report, gather up information on Christmas trees, landscaping, and voluntary materials such as ink cartridges or carpet that you have recycled. Also, find recycling notices you have distributed, flyers for donation or awareness events, photos, and other supporting information that you can attach to your report. See something on the outreach and education checklist that you'd like to implement at your property? Give us a call! The start of a new year is a good time to stock up on recycling essentials such as brochures and apartment recycling bins.

File online! The online reporting system is easy, saves paper, allows you to upload supporting documents, and provides instant confirmation of report submittal. And, you'll be able to track your achievements over the years.

If your business or property type is a	Your filing deadline is
Multi-family property (seven or more dwelling units) owner, manager, or common ownership association	February 1, 2012
Large business (250+ employees)	March 1, 2012
Medium business (100-249 employees)	March 1, 2012
Small business (fewer than 100 employees) that received a written request from DSWs	March 1, 2012
Commercial property owner or manager of multi-tenant facilities	March 1, 2012

File online starting January 1, 2012 at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.